

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 06904 181803Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 181758Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7645

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 06904

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CB

SUBJECT: CHIRAC VISIT TO USSR: DISCUSSION OF INDOCHINA

REF: (A) PARIS 6902

(B) PARIS 6719

1. IN DISCUSSION OF FRENCH AGENDA FOR CHIRAC TALKS IN USSR (REF A), BONNECORSE, DEPUTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASSISTANT TO PRIME MINISTER, SAID A PROPOS OF INDOCHINA, THAT THE SOVIETS WERE KEENLY AWARE OF THEIR LACK OF INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY IN CAMBODIA (SEE ALSO REF B). THE SOVIETS MAY THEREFORE WANT TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION FURTHER WITH THE FRENCH, AND MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GOOD CONTACTS WHICH THE FRENCH HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD WITH SIHANOUK TO IMPROVE THEIR OWN.

2. COMMENT: BONNECORSE IS NOT SOPHISTICATED IN ASIAN AFFAIRS, AND MAY HAVE MISINTERPRETED THE BRIEFING PAPERS. SINCE THE FRENCH HAVE USUALLY DISCOUNTED SIHANOUK'S CURRENT INFLUENCE AND HAVE INSTEAD EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE KHMER COMMUNIST PARTY (INFLUENCED PRIMARILY BY THE PRC), IT WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THE FRENCH REALLY WENT BEYOND AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS CONCERNING CAMBODIA. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE FRENCH SHIFT ON MARCH 15 TO EVACUATION OF THEIR EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME POLICY CHANGE TOWARD A
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MORE ACTIVE FRENCH COURSE OF ACTION INVOLVING THE USSR

AS WELL AS SIHANOUK. PLEASE PROTECT BONNECORSE FULLY.
RUSH

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NNN

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